



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

Glenn T. Suddaby, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and John Pikus, Special Agent In Charge of the FBI, Albany Division, today announced that Helen Lawless, 44, of Solvay New York pled guilty to lying to the FBI in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1001. Lawless, whose husband Patrick is a convicted felon, admitted that she lied when she told them that she had never seen her husband Patrick with a gun, when, in fact, she had seen him removing his fingerprints from a gun that he planned to use in a drive-by shooting on August 23, 2005.

The false statement charge alleged in Count Four of the superseding indictment carries a maximum term of incarceration of five years and a maximum fine of \$250,000. The superseding indictment also charges Patrick Lawless, 58 of Solvay New York and James Henry McAuley, Jr., a/k/a "Mitch", 58, of Rochester New York, with:

- (a) conspiracy to commit an assault with a deadly weapon and murder in aid of racketeering (Count One), in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 1959;
- (b) being felons in possession of a firearm (Count Two), in violation of Title 18

United States Code, Section 922(g); and

- (c) possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence (Count Three), in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 924(c).

Helen Lawless will be sentenced by Chief Judge Norman Mordue in Syracuse New York at 10:00 a.m. on March 11, 2008.

U.S. Attorney Suddaby had high praise for the collaborative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the New York State Police, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, the Oneida County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms. He also expressed his appreciation of the support and cooperation provided by Donald Dodd and the District Attorney's Office in Oswego County.

The case is being prosecuted by AUSAs Greg West and Steven Clymer.